



## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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### ZACHARY PARKER

Ward 5 Councilmember  
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs

### COMMITTEE MEMBER

Health  
Human Services  
Transportation and the Environment

October 4, 2025

Nyasha Smith, Secretary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the Strengthening Capacity and Transparency of DYRS Amendment Act of 2025. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation. This legislation is co-introduced by Councilmembers Janeese Lewis-George, Charles Allen, Robert White, Jr., and Brooke Pinto.

This legislation seeks to achieve positive outcomes for youth committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) by promoting transparency and calling for the Mayor to address overcrowding at the Youth Services Center (YSC). In order to promote conformity with District law and DYRS policy, including appropriate room confinement and critical incident procedures, the relevant agencies and the public must have access to accurate and current data regarding the committed population at DYRS facilities. In a similar vein, it is necessary to standardize the definition of recidivism to enable a data-driven approach to disrupting repeated cycles of youth detainment.

Finally, the Youth Services Center has faced severe episodes of overcrowding. As recently as September 10, 2025, the 98-bed facility housed more than 130 youth. These types of severe overcrowding compromise the security and safety of youth and staff and can lead to outbreaks of juvenile violence that staff struggle to control.

In response to these needs, this legislation will:

- require daily and monthly reporting on youth demographics and incidents which were previously the responsibility of the Office of Independent Juvenile Justice Facilities Oversight (OIJJFO);
- define recidivism in District code and establishes a recidivism metric that must be reported by DYRS publicly; and

- directs the Mayor to create a one-year action plan to address overcrowding at DYRS's YSC within 120 days.

This legislation will deliver the data necessary to enforce compliance with District law and DYRS policy, help drive down recidivism, and encourage the Mayor to find durable solutions to eliminate overcrowding.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Committee Director, Thomas Franco, at [tfranco@dccouncil.gov](mailto:tfranco@dccouncil.gov) or my Legislative Assistant, Allison Bailey, at [abailey@dccouncil.gov](mailto:abailey@dccouncil.gov) with any questions or concerns.

Signed,



Zachary Parker  
Councilmember, Ward 5  
Chair, Committee on Youth Affairs  
Council of the District of Columbia

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4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George



Councilmember Zachary Parker

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9 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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15 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

16 A BILL

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20 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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25 To amend the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004 to require  
26 the Mayor to publish within 120 days a plan to address persistent overcrowding of the  
27 Youth Services Center and to require the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services to  
28 publish publicly certain population data pertaining to youth at Youth Services Center and  
29 New Beginnings Youth Development Center.

30  
31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
32 act may be cited as the “Strengthening Capacity and Transparency at DYRS Amendment Act of  
33 2025”.

34 Sec. 2. The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004,  
35 effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-335; D.C. Official Code § 2-1515.01 *et seq.*), is amended  
36 as follows:

37 (a) Section 104b (D.C. Official Code § 2-1515.04b) is amended by adding new

subsections (c-d) to read as follows:

“(c) Notwithstanding juvenile confidentiality laws pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 2–1515.06, the Department shall publicly report on their website population data for youth at the Youth Services Center and New Beginnings Youth Development Center. The reported information shall include:

“(1) Daily population counts by status at entry, race, and age;

“(2) Average length of stay for all youth within the facility; and

“(3) The monthly number of youth who:

“(A) Are newly admitted to the YSC already with committed status; or

“(B) Convert to committed status from another legal status while at YSC

“(C) Are placed in instances of improper room confinement pursuant to § 24–912, including instances in which they are confined to their room for a period exceeding 6 hours.”

“(4) The average number of days confined for committed youth at release from the YSC, by month of admission or conversion to committed status; and

“(5) Monthly critical incident and assault data by incident type, facility, and month.”

“(6) Recidivism data which shall be measured using the following metrics:

“(A) The percentage of youth who completed rehabilitation under commitment to DYRS for which the Office of the Attorney General has, within three years of release from DYRS commitment, opened a new delinquency matter unrelated to the offense for which the youth was placed under commitment to DYRS.

60 “(B) The percentage of youth who completed rehabilitation under  
61 commitment to DYRS for which the Office of the Attorney General has, within three years of  
62 release from DYRS commitment, sought prosecutorial action in relation to a juvenile’s alleged  
63 criminal behavior unrelated to the offense for which the youth was placed under commitment to  
64 DYRS.

65 “(d) Within 120 days after the effective date of Strengthening Capacity and Transparency  
66 of DYRS Amendment Act of 2025, the Mayor shall submit to the Council a one-year action plan  
67 to address overcrowding and the awaiting placement population at the Youth Services Center.  
68 The plan shall specify how the Department will permanently reduce the juvenile population at  
69 the Youth Services Center to a maximum of 90 youth and avoid future instances of  
70 overcrowding.

71 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

72 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
73 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
74 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

75 Sec. 4. Effective date.

76 This act shall take effect after approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
77 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
78 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
79 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
80 Columbia Register.